

2013 MC China Joint Mission Sister City Trip
Last Minute Checklist and Frequently Asked Questions

Before You Go

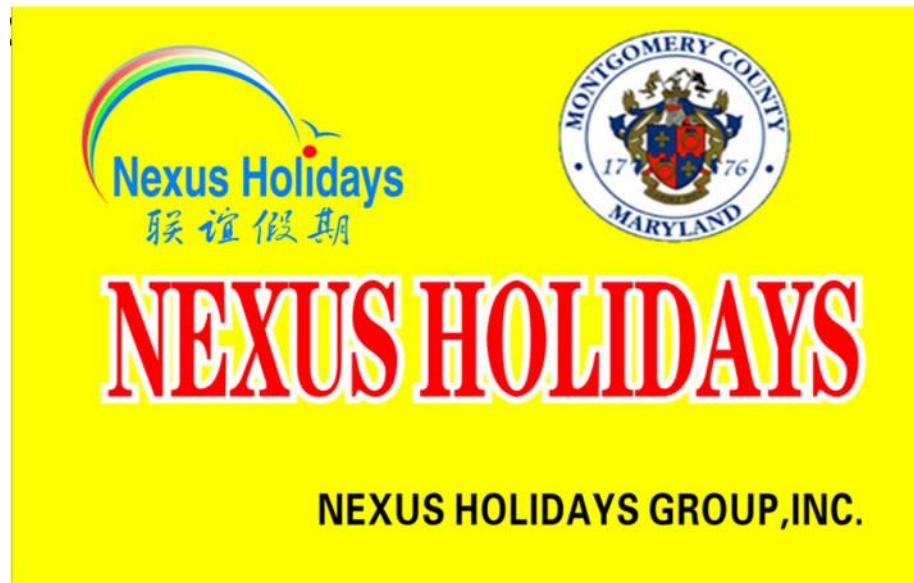
- ☐ Let the travel agent know if you have any **food allergies, dietary restrictions or need wheelchair service** or need any other special accommodations.
- ☐ **Check your airline's baggage requirements.** International weights restrictions for luggage is 50 lbs BUT is only 40lbs for domestic flights in China, so please keep your bag weight under 40lbs. If you choose, you may always pay for extra bags or extra weight. Below is bag information for Air Canada and United Airlines but please visit the websites for detailed weight and size restrictions:
 - Air Canada: <http://www.aircanada.com/en/travelinfo/airport/baggage/checked.html>
1st bag: Free
2nd bag: \$100USD per direction
Each additional bag: \$225 per direction
 - United: <http://www.united.com/cms/en-us/travel/pages/checkedbaggage.aspx>
1st bag: Free
2nd bag: \$100USD per direction
3rd and any additional bag: \$200 per direction
- ☐ Make sure you bring something in your **carry-on bag to keep you warm** as it is usually frigid on plane rides such as a small light blanket or sweatshirt.
- ☐ **Pack enough medication** for the trip. If you have allergies, make sure you bring allergy medicines, nasal sprays, eye drops, etc.
- ☐ The **weather is record-setting and hot** in China so please pack accordingly! We recommend lightweight clothes for sightseeing (t-shirts, shorts, jeans, sneakers, etc.) and business attire for meetings and banquets.
 - Baseball caps are ok if as long as they are not the color green. I have been told that for men, green hats signify that you have an unfaithful spouse (no, I am not making this up).
 - Ladies: pants and skirts are ok for the banquets or business meetings. You do not to bring a formal dress. We recommend you pack 3 pairs of shoes: sneakers, comfortable flats and dress shoes or heels.
 - As of 9/11, the weather for the next week in Shanghai is 81-88 degrees during the day with a chance of rain; in Xi'an it is 81-104 degrees; in Benxi it is 70-79 degrees with a few rainy days; in Beijing it is 79-90 degrees with a few rainy days.
- ☐ If you would like to **exchange currency** ahead of time, you can visit Asian Bank, 650 Hungerford Dr, Rockville, MD 20850. (301) 738-9700. Otherwise, you may do it at the airport or once we land in China. Chinese currency is best for small shops and boutiques.
- ☐ **Credits cards** are accepted at larger stores. I suggest you contact your credit card company ahead of time to inform them of your travel plans.

- For **cell phone operation** in China, you MUST contact your cell phone provider! I have listed some quick reference information below but contact your companies for confirmation as rates may vary depending on your phone.
 - Verizon has a handy International Trip Planner Website:
<http://www.verizonwireless.com/b2c/tripplanner/tripplannercontroller>
 As listed on their website:
<http://businessportals.verizonwireless.com/international/Roaming/Asia-Pacific/China.html>
 Calling rate: \$1.99/minute
 Send messages: \$0.50
 Receive messages: \$0.20
 Data: \$0.020/KB
 - AT&T: <http://www.wireless.att.com/learn/international/roaming/affordable-world-packages.jsp#data>
 Calling rate: \$2.50/min
 Receive messages: \$0.20
 Send messages: \$0.50
 Data: \$0.0195/KB
 - Sprint:
http://support.sprint.com/global/pdf/travel_tips/cdma_roam/China_SprintDevice.pdf
 - Calling rate: \$2.99/minute
 Receive messages: \$0.05
 Send messages: \$0.50
 Data: \$0.004/KB
- **Make two copies of your passports.** Leave one at home in the US and bring one copy with you. Carry your passport copy with you while traveling in China and lock your physical passport in the hotel room safe.
- The **voltage in China is 220.** Our hotels all have dual outlets which should be work for both 110v and 220v, but it is always a good idea to bring a small adapters just in case.

Getting to the Airport

- **Call your airline** 72 hours before departure to confirm your ticket!!! This is the same thing as online check-in. If the flight is overbooked, this will ensure that your seat is reserved.
- Please **double-check your departure city on your flight/booking summary!** We have two groups traveling: one from Washington (DCA) and one from Baltimore (BWI).
- **Bring a copy of your flight info and/or booking summary.** If you booked your ticket from our travel agent, all you need to bring is your booking summary which you should have received from Wendy via email. This is the same as an e-ticket. Once at the airport, you can your passport at the airline's kiosk for your boarding pass.

- We recommend that travelers **arrive at the airport 2-3 hours ahead of departure time. If your flight leaves at 6am, please arrive by 3am or 4am.** Our travel agent Wendy Liu will be traveling with you if you are on the Air Canada flight. Should any problems arise the morning of departure, you can reach Wendy at 240-328-8483 or Diane Vu at 240-688-2001. FYI—Diane will be on a different flight leaving out of BWI at 9:50am on the morning of 9/15.
- Once you arrive in China, signs will be in English since you are in an international hotel. Look for Baggage Claim signs (or follow Wendy) and retrieve your bag from baggage claim. You must then go through customs. Once through customs, and look for a Nexus Holidays' tour guide holding the flag below. This is very important: you will need to **let the tour guide know that your Group Code is F0916 and if you are in Group 1 or Group 2.** There will be two groups arriving at the same time so PLEASE have this code handy by printing this information sheet and bringing it with you. If you get lost or experience any difficulties, you may call our international tour guide Ms. Yu Hui at 18016059180. There will be two buses to take you to the hotel on the 16th: one for the United travelers at 1:55pm and one for the Air Canada travelers at 3:15pm.



- If you are arriving on your own, you may **print out the How to Get To the Hotel in Shanghai document** from our website and show it to the taxi driver.

Tips While In China

- Store your money and passports in the hotel safe. Travel with enough money to get you through the day and a photocopy of your passport. The travel agent suggests that you carry the equivalent of \$200USD in Chinese currency everyday if you want to purchase souvenirs from vendors or smaller stores.
- We suggest that you carry a bag that can fit over your shoulder which is easier for traveling. Cross-body bags and belt bags are also a good idea.

- ☐ The travel agent advised to not buy food or drinks (sometimes the street vendors sell fake brands for drinks) from street vendors or fruit. You can always buy bottled water or snacks from the hotel or grocery stores nearby.
- ☐ Do not drink the tap water! Use bottled water only.
- ☐ You will have a tour guide with you the entire time. There will be an international tour guide traveling with us for the duration of the trip and local tour guides in each city. Lily and Felicia will be with Group 1 and Diane and Wendy will be with Group 2
- ☐ Lastly, HAVE FUN!!!